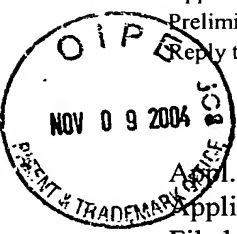


1FW✓

Appl. No. 10/825,504  
Preliminary Amdt. Dated November 4, 2004  
Reply to Office action of N/A



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/825,504  
Applicant : Volker Derflinger et al.  
Filed : April 15, 2004  
Title : WORK PIECE WITH A HARD FILM OF AlCr-CONTAINING MATERIAL, AND PROCESS FOR ITS PRODUCTION  
  
Conf. No. : 8570  
TC/A.U. : 3722  
Examiner : TBD  
  
Customer No. : 000,116  
Docket No. : 35523US1

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "A"**

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination thereof, in the following manner. Enclosed is the required fee of \$756.00 for the addition of 42 additional claims in excess of 20.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Suzanne B. Gagnon

Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Suzanne B. Gagnon".

November 5, 2004

Signature of Attorney/Date

11/10/2004 WASFAW1 00000045 10825504

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756.00 OP